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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/594)*]

53/66. Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the question of Tokelau,[1]

Recalling the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau, delivered by the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* (the highest authority on Tokelau) on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Recalling also its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, General Assembly resolution 52/77 of 10 December 1997,

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[1] A/53/23 (Part VII), chap. XI. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23*.

Recalling further the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting also with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the International Telecommunication Union,

Recalling the dispatch in 1994 of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also that, as a case study pointing to successful decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Also notes* Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. *Commends* Tokelau's ongoing work in charting a distinctive constitutional course, reflecting its unique traditions and environment;

4. *Also commends* Tokelau for current initiatives and endeavours, based on wide consultation with its people, to construct a true "house of Tokelau", acknowledging the role of the village as the foundation of Tokelau, as well as the need to continue the process of strengthening the basis of national self-government;

5. *Acknowledges* the attention being given to broader matters of governance, including Tokelau's efforts to establish clear local channels of responsibility and accountability in national and village government;

6. *Notes* the desire of Tokelau, in consultation with the Government of New Zealand, to take over responsibility for the Tokelau public service and the willingness of the Government of New Zealand to make the necessary legislative changes, reflecting its already well-advanced policy of devolving that part of government which deals with the interests of all of Tokelau;

7. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's need for reassurance, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to

assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

8. *Welcomes* the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

9. *Invites* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau;

10. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998